

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for eliciting an immune response in a subject comprising
2 administering an immunogenically effective amount of a peptide or protein antigen
3 comprising one or more T cell epitope(s) coordinately with a non-viral vector comprising
4 a polynucleotide encoding a T cell co-stimulatory molecule.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the peptide or protein antigen
2 comprises a T cell epitope of a tumor antigen or viral antigen.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the tumor antigen is selected from
2 p53, ras, rb, mcc, apc, dcc; nfl; VHL; MEN1, MEN2, MLM, Her-2neu, CEA, PSA;
3 Muc1, Gp100, tyrosinase, or MART1.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the tumor antigen is selected from
2 a mutant or normal p53 or ras protein.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the peptide antigen comprises a
2 sequence of at least nine amino acids spanning a mutation in p53 or ras.

1 6. A method for eliciting an immune response in a subject comprising
2 administering an immunogenically effective amount of a protein antigen comprising at
3 least one T cell epitope coordinately with a non-viral vector comprising a polynucleotide
4 encoding a T cell co-stimulatory molecule.

1 7. The method of claim 2, wherein the viral antigen is selected from a
2 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV),
3 herpes simplex virus (HSV) or human papilloma virus (HPV) antigen.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the peptide antigen comprises at
2 least nine contiguous amino acids of a HPV antigenic protein.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the peptide antigen comprises at
2 least nine contiguous amino acids of a HIV antigenic protein.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the peptide antigen comprises at
2 least nine contiguous amino acids of a HBV or HCV antigenic protein.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the peptide antigen and non-viral
2 vector encoding one or more T cell co-stimulatory molecules are administered to the
3 subject simultaneously as a mixture in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the peptide antigen and non-viral
2 vector encoding the T cell co-stimulatory molecule are administered separately to the
3 subject in a sequential vaccination protocol.

1 15 The method of claim 1, wherein the peptide antigen and non-viral
2 vector encoding the T cell co-stimulatory molecule are administered to proximal target
3 sites selected from the same, or closely-adjacent, intradermal, subcutaneous, mucosal or
4 intratumoral sites.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-viral vector is selected
2 from a RNA or DNA vector.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-viral vector comprises a
2 naked DNA vector having the polynucleotide encoding the co-stimulatory molecule
3 operably linked to regulatory elements necessary for expression of the co-stimulatory
4 molecule in eukaryotic cells.

1 18. An immunogenic composition comprising an immunogenically
2 effective amount of a peptide or protein antigen comprising a T cell epitope, and a non-
3 viral vector comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a T cell co-stimulatory molecule
4 operably linked to regulatory elements necessary for expression of the co-stimulatory
5 molecule in eukaryotic cells, formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or
6 diluent.

1 20. The immunogenic composition of claim 19, wherein the tumor
2 antigen is selected from *p53, ras, rb, mcc, apc, dcc; nfl; VHL; MEN1, MEN2, MLM,*
3 Her-2neu, CEA, PSA; Muc1, Gp100, tyrosinase, or MART1.

1 21. The immunogenic composition of claim 20, wherein the peptide
2 antigen comprises a sequence of at least nine amino acids spanning a mutation in *p53* or
3 *ras*.

1 22. The immunogenic composition of claim 18, wherein a protein
2 antigen is administered as a purified protein or a tumor lysate component of a vaccine
3 formulation.

1 23. The immunogenic composition of claim 19, wherein the viral
2 antigen is selected from an antigenic protein of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV),
3 hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV); herpes simplex virus (HSV), or human
4 papilloma virus (HPV) antigen.

1 24. The immunogenic composition of claim 23, wherein the peptide
2 antigen comprises at least nine contiguous amino acids of a HPV E6 or E7 protein.

1 25. The immunogenic composition of claim 23, wherein the peptide
2 antigen comprises at least nine contiguous amino acids of a HIV antigenic protein.

1 26. The immunogenic composition of claim 23, wherein the peptide
2 antigen comprises at least nine contiguous amino acids of a HBV antigenic protein.

1 27. The immunogenic composition of claim 18, wherein the co-
2 stimulatory molecule is selected from B7-1, B7-2, B7-3, B7-H, ICAM1, ICAM2, ICAM3,
3 LFA1, LFA2 or LFA3.

1 28. The immunogenic composition of claim 27, wherein the co-
2 stimulatory molecule is B7-1.

1 29. The immunogenic composition of claim 18, wherein the non-viral
2 vector is selected from a RNA or DNA vector.

1 30. The immunogenic composition of claim 29, wherein the non-viral
2 vector comprises a naked DNA vector having the polynucleotide encoding the co-
3 stimulatory molecule operably linked to regulatory elements necessary for expression of
4 the co-stimulatory molecule in eukaryotic cells.

1 31. The immunogenic composition of claim 18, wherein the peptide
2 antigen comprises a cytotoxic T cell (CTL) epitope.